



# Accountability Report 2022–23

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Intergovernmental Affairs



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## Accountability Statement

The Accountability Report of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs for the year ended March 31, 2023, is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. The reporting of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments, and opinions by the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs management.

We acknowledge that this Accountability Report is the responsibility of the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs 2022-23 Business Plan.

Department of Intergovernmental Affairs

(Original signed by)

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The Honourable Tim Houston  
Premier of Nova Scotia  
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs  
Minister of Trade

(Original signed by)

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Dana MacKenzie  
Deputy Minister

## Measuring Our Performance

During 2022-23, the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) focused on advancing Nova Scotia's priorities for health care, the economy, and future growth and sustainability, through work with the Government of Canada, Council of the Federation, the Council of Atlantic Premiers, the Committee on Internal Trade, foreign governments including international missions, and engagement with key sector stakeholders. The Department undertook actions and made progress delivering IGA's ministerial and legislated mandates.

### Federal and Federal-Provincial-Territorial Relations

- Pursued and achieved a 10-year health funding agreement with the federal government through the Council of the Federation, with IGA leading co-ordination and alignment among key provincial departments in preparation for a First Ministers' working meeting on the agreement
- Served as Vice-Chair of the Council of the Federation; Nova Scotia assumed the role of Chair in July 2023
- Advanced Nova Scotia's provincial priorities on immigration, infrastructure, and sustainable development with the federal government, and other provinces and territories, at the Council of the Federation, the Council of Atlantic Premiers, and the Atlantic Growth Strategy Leadership Committee
- Advised on provincial responses to federal engagement initiatives on oceans management, conservation, marine planning, and offshore renewable energy
- Advised and supported Nova Scotia departments during their engagements with the federal government on the implementation of the federal Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- Advised departments on bilateral agreements with the federal government through the bilateral agreement guidelines, developed by IGA for the use of departments' intergovernmental officials

### Premier Chairs the Council of Atlantic Premiers

- Chaired the Council of Atlantic Premiers forum; Nova Scotia's key focus, as Chair, was to find areas of collaboration in health care
- Developed the Atlantic Physician Registry through the Council of Atlantic Premiers and the region's provincial physician registrars; to be launched May 1, 2023, it provides Atlantic physicians with a single point of entry to register in each of the four provinces
- Pursued economic and regional objectives, including decarbonization and clean energy, immigration, and internal trade, through the Atlantic Growth Strategy Leadership Committee
- Engaged the federal government, in coordination with other provincial departments, on funding options, including the potential Atlantic Loop transmission project, in support of the 2030 target to supply 80% of Nova Scotia's electricity needs from renewable energy sources

## Strategic Trade Objectives

- Supported the Province's objectives for global and interprovincial trade and export growth by identifying diverse and emerging priority markets; provided research and analysis of Nova Scotia's trade performance in the post-COVID environment
- Advocated added pathways in recruitment of health professionals, and a reduction in supply chain trade barriers, within the Canada-UK Free Trade Agreement and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership accession negotiations, and through provincial and federal engagement on strategies for the Indian, Indonesian, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations markets
- Advanced Nova Scotia's positions and priorities to reduce interprovincial barriers to trade by supporting the Committee on Internal Trade (CIT) and the Atlantic Trade and Procurement Partnership, and by developing an Atlantic workplan
- Through the CIT, led national work to open sales channels for alcoholic beverages, and advanced key initiatives under the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, including improving labour mobility for health professionals, and negotiations on financial services
- Engaged with federal and provincial partners to resolve market access issues, such as the impact of China's Import Food Enterprise Registration system on the seafood industry, ongoing softwood lumber disputes, and interprovincial procurement access
- Worked with partners to help Nova Scotia companies understand opportunities created by free trade agreements, and to identify industry barriers in international markets

## Developing and Leveraging Global Relationships

- Advanced a Premier-led mission to Europe in the spring of 2022 to promote and strengthen trade, tourism, cultural, investment, partnerships, and research collaboration; a planned European fall mission was cancelled due to Hurricane Fiona
- Carried out a Premier's Ottawa visit to meet with Ambassadors of European countries, and addressed the European Union Heads of Mission (all EU Ambassadors), to strengthen connections, promote trade, and advance clean energy opportunities between Nova Scotia and the European Union
- Actively participated in the Southeastern United States-Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS-CP) by attending the 2022 annual conference in Savannah, GA, along with Nova Scotian companies
- Supported the 2022 Tree for Washington and Tree for Boston events, which showcased several Nova Scotia industries
- Welcomed and developed impactful programs for representatives of over 20 foreign governments (including Japan, France, Israel, Norway, United Kingdom, Germany, and New Zealand) visiting the province, with the objective of promoting trade, key sectors, and immigration opportunities in Nova Scotia

## The Military and Defence Sector in Nova Scotia

- Facilitated and supported provincial participation in commemorative, ceremonial, and other military events, including departure and return ceremonies, and visits from foreign military delegations
- In collaboration with provincial partners and defence sector stakeholders, a defence sector profile was established, as well as an impact assessment of the defence sector and military presence in NS to ensure continued growth in this sector
- Through the Seamless Canada Steering Committee (SCSC), the Province fully implemented the 90-day waiver initiative, and updated the MSI application webpage of the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness website, to ensure military families are aware they no longer require waiting 90-days to receive their provincial health card or to receive health care in the province

**Accessibility Initiative:** In support of initiatives being advanced by the Province's Interdepartmental Committee on Accessibility, IGA began work to undertake a cross-jurisdictional comparative review of current accessibility legislation at the federal and provincial-territorial levels. This work will continue into 2023-24.

## Financial Summary

### 2022-23 IGA Financial Summary

| <b>Intergovernmental Affairs</b>                       |                 |                |                 |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Departmental Expenses Summary</b><br>(\$ thousands) |                 |                |                 |
|  | <b>2022-23</b>  | <b>2022-23</b> | <b>2022-23</b>  |
| <b>Programs and Services</b>                           | <b>Estimate</b> | <b>Actual</b>  | <b>Variance</b> |
| Administration   | 3,371           | 3,103          | (268)           |
| Government House                                       | 1,189           | 1,059          | (129)           |
| Protocol and Honours Secretariat                       | 54              | 266            | 212             |
| <b>Total - Departmental Expenses</b>                   | <b>4,614</b>    | <b>4,429</b>   | <b>(185)</b>    |
| <b>Ordinary Recoveries</b>                             | -               | -              | -               |
| <b><u>Funded Staff (# of FTEs)</u></b>                 |                 |                |                 |

|                                |      |      |       |
|--------------------------------|------|------|-------|
| <b>Department Funded Staff</b> | 33.5 | 29.7 | (3.8) |
|--------------------------------|------|------|-------|

**Departmental Expenses Variance Explanation:**

Intergovernmental Affairs expenses were \$185 thousand lower than estimate primarily due to temporary salary savings, and other net operating savings.

**Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs) Variance Explanation:**

FTEs were lower than estimate due to temporarily vacant positions.

***Annual Report under Section 18 of the Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act***

The *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act* was proclaimed into law on December 20, 2011.

The Act provides for government employees to be able to come forward if they reasonably believe that a wrongdoing has been committed or is about to be committed and they are acting in good faith.

The Act also protects employees who do disclose from reprisals, by enabling them to lay a complaint of reprisal with the Labor Board.

A wrongdoing for the purposes of the Act is:

- a) a contravention of provincial or federal laws or regulations;
- b) a misuse or gross mismanagement of public funds or assets;
- c) an act or omission that creates an imminent risk of a substantial and specific danger to the life, health or safety of persons or the environment; or,
- d) directing or counselling someone to commit a wrongdoing.

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Department of Intergovernmental Affairs:

| <b>Information Required under Section 18 of the Act</b> | <b>Fiscal Year 2022-2023</b> |
|---|------------------------------|
| The number of disclosures received                      | 0                            |
| The number of findings of wrongdoing                    | 0                            |
| Details of each wrongdoing                              | Not applicable               |
| Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing.   | Not applicable               |